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Message Text

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67
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 SCS-03 SCCT-02 AID-20

CCO-00 FBO-01 NIC-01 OC-06 OPR-02 USSS-00 SCA-01 A-01

OMB-01 SY-04 DRC-01 /123 W
---------- 103642
O 292025Z APR 74
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2965

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 2384

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS
SUBJECT: FORMER CHIEF OF DETECTIVE CORPS ASSASSINATED; OTHER VIOLENCE FLARES

1. ON APRIL 26 LEONEL BOJORGES GALLARDO, CHIEF OF NATIONAL POLICE DETECTIVE CORPS FROM SEPT. 1972 TO MARCH 1973, WAS ASSASSINATED BY UNIDENTIFIED ASSAILANTS IN GUATEMALA CITY'S ZONE 6. THE ATTACKERS INTERCEPTED BOJORGES' CAR SHORTLY AFTER HE LEFT THE CEMENTOAS NOVELLA FACTORY, (WHERE HE WORKED AS CHIEF OF SECURITY) AND ATTACKED HIM WITH SHOTGUNS. HE DIED IMMEDATELY. AN UNIDENTIFIED INNOCENT BY-STANDER WAS KILLED BY BOJORGES' OUT-OF-CONTROL CAR, AND A BUILDING WAS PARTIALLY DEMOLISHED.

2. PRESS HAS NOT REPORTED ANY INFORMATION INDICATING WHO AUTHORS OF ASSASSINATION MIGHT BE. LA NACION SPECULATED THAT GUERRILLAS ARE RESPONSIBLE, HOWEVER, NATIONAL POLICE SPOKESMAN COUNTERED THAT VERSION, ANNOUNCING THAT BOJORGES HAD TAKEN NO PART IN ANTI-GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES AND WAS FULLY OCCUPIED IN ANTI-COMMON CRIME ACTIVITIES WHILE CHIEF OF DETECTIVES.
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3. COMMENT: DURING OUR LAST CONVERSATION WITH BOJORGUES

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WHICH TOOK PLACE SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, HE TOLD US HE WAS
A FRIEND OF PRESIDENT-ELECT LAUGERUD AND THAT HE HOPED TO
BE REAPPOINTED CHIEF OF DECTIVES BY THE LAUGERUD GOVERNMENT.
IN THIS CONNECTION JOSE ALBERTO BARRIOS RAMIREZ, WHO WAS
BOJORGUES' PREDECESSOR AS CHIEF OF DETECTIVES IN THE ARANA
ADMINISTRATION AND WHO RETURNED TO GUATEMALA ABOUT A
MONTH AGO, HAS TOLD US THAT HE EXPETED TO BE REAPPOINTED
AS CHIEF OF DETECTIVES. WE UNDERSTAND THAT BARRIOS,
WHO UNTIL RECENTLY WAS MOVING ABOUT THE CITY WITHOUT
BODYGUARDS, IS NOW IN HIDING. END COMMENT.

4. ON APRIL 27, FIVE BODIES WERE FOUND IN TWO LOCATIONS
NEAR GUATEMALA CITY WITH NOTES IDENTIFYING THEM AS
VICTIMS OF THE ESCAUDRON DE LA MUERTE (DEATH SQUAD).
THE NOTES GAVE THE NAMES OF THE VICTIMS AND THE
ALLEGED CRIMES THAT HAD MERITED THEM EXECUTION.

5. COMMENT: THE ESCUADRON, GENERALLY BELIEVED TO BE
A CLANDESTINE ORGANIZATION OF THE NATIONAL POLICE, HAD
NOT BEEN ACTIVE SINCE EARLY FEBRUARY. ITS RESURGENCE
INDICATES CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO DEALING WITH THE
COMMON CRIME PROBLEM BY THE MOST DIRECT METHOD POSSIBLE.
END COMMENT.

6. ON APRIL 25, MARCEL AND CAMILO SILVA HORGUERA, TWO
CHILEAN CITIZENS RECENTLY SETTLED IN GUATEMALA WHERE THEY
ESTABLISHED A PLASTIC FACTORY, WERE FOUND SHOT TO DEATH
AND WITH SIGNS OF TORTURE ON A HIGHWAY NEAR GUATEMALA
CITY. THEIR BODIES WERE LEFT IN THE BACK OF A SMALL PANEL
TRUCK. NO MOTIVE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR THE CRIME.
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To: STATE
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